DEMOCRATIC
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BONN'S BIG STICK

West Germany Threatens African Republic

The African Republic of Guinea became, at the beginning of March, the first non-Socialist state to establish full diplomatic relations with the German Democratic Republic.

Immediately after the announcement on March 5th that the two countries had established diplomatic relations, the West German Government recalled its ambassador from Conakry, the capital of Guinea, threatened to sever the diplomatic link, and to cancel all economic aid for Guinea.

The West German Government took this step under the terms of "Hallstein Doctrine" which proclaims that West Germany is the only legitimate German state, and that any nation which dares to recognise the GDR has committed an "unfriendly act" against West Germany. Bonn severed relations with Yugoslavia in 1957 after Belgrade and Berlin had exchanged mabassadors.

Commenting on the West German threats, the Government of the GDR issued an official statement on March 11th stating:

"The decision taken by the West German Government is a threat, not only to Guinea, but also to the other states of Africa and Asia. It is a clear proof that West Germany is not prepared to respect the independence and sovereignty of other states. The West German Government has told Guinea that it has not got the right to take international decisions which accord with the interests of the people of Guinea. This demonstrates clearly the hypocritical nature of the claims of West German ruling circles to be concerned about the right of self-determination of other nations.

"The West German Government wishes to use methods of blackmail in order to further its policy of aggression and of enmity for international understanding. Its act is a crude intervention in the international affairs of other states.

"The German Democratic Republic recognises the full sovereignty of all states, and the right of every state to establish relations with every other state. The Bonn Government cannot accustom itself to the fact that the states of Africa are very jealous of their sovereignty and liberty.

"Today the Bonn Government supports the colonialist policy of other powers: its own neo-colonialism is proved by the manner in which it is threatening Guinea. By threatening to cancel agreements reached with Guinea in the economic and technical field, the West German Government demonstrates the hypocritical nature of its pledges to give aid with out any political strings. It is shown very clearly that the 'aid' given by West Germany serves only West German imperialism, but not the free development of other peoples.

"The Government of the German Democratic Republic condemns the racial hatred against all African peoples which has become apparent in West German publications on the Republic of Guinea. This racialist propaganda is not only an insult to the peoples of Africa, but will also hurt the reputation of the German people in the eyes of those peoples.

"The attempts made by the West German Government to bully the national independent states, and prevent them from establishing diplomatic relations with the German Democratic Republic has no prospect of success. The further development of the international relations of the German Democratic Republic can no more be halted than can the complete collapse of colonialism."

"Just out of the Bush"

Guinea's action in establishing diplomatic relations with the GDR was the signal for an outbreak of white chauvinism in the West German press and radio. On March 6th a West German TV commentator, referring to Guinea's President Sékou Touré, said: "He's just come out of the bush, after all . . . the French let him loose a bit too soon" and the influential West German newspaper "Die Welt" commented on March 7th: "Nobody can convince us that this devilish plan (to recognise the GDR, ed.) was formed in the head of the black president of Guinea".

The West Berlin newspaper "Tag" stated on March 8th that Guinea's president had "the diplomatic manners to be expected from a bush-Negro", and on the same date the West Berlin "Kurier" referred to the peoples of the newly independent African states as "little illiterates".

The West German "Industriekurier" stated on March 10th: "We do too much honour to men like Sekou Touré when we receive them with full honours: this naturally makes them insolent and gives them a superiority complex. Who are these gentlemen? Jacks-in-office, who have licked civilisation in European schools and now rule over illiterates and fetish worshippers. The people

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of Guinea live in the jungle. The white man seems to have lost that sense of superiority and dignity which was formerly natural, and which kept the Africans in their proper place."

The West German press campaign against the independent state of Guinea had begun a few days earlier, when Guinea officially protested to the United Nations against the fact that West German technicians had had a hand in the French atom bomb exploded in the Sahara, not far from Guinea's borders.

Guinea's first ambassador to Democratic Germany, Dr Seydou Conte, arrived in Berlin on March 3rd. He was cordially received for the presentation of his credentials by President Wilhelm Pieck on March 5th. At the ceremony Ambassador Seydou Conte stated:

"President Sékou Touré has asked me to express his deep gratitude for the friendship extended by your Government and your people to the Republic of Guinea since it won its independence.

"We know the efforts made by your Government and your people for the liberation of Africa and for world peace. The peoples of Africa will remember these facts."

President Wilhelm Pieck, in his reply, stated:

"I welcome you as representative of the people of Guinea, with which the German Democratic Republic has been linked in friendship since your country won its independence. The friendly relations between our two countries are based upon the Bandung Principles of peaceful coexistence.

"The German Democratic Republic and the Republic of Guinea are linked by their joint struggle for the maintenance of peace, and the liberation of mankind from imperialist oppression. The German Democratic Republic wants to do everything possible to help your people to overcome the difficult heritage left by the imperialist yoke.

"The German Democratic Republic will continue to make every effort to help the independence struggle of those African peoples still in national subservience."

The Republic of Guinea, formerly a French colony, became fully independent in September 1958, and since that date has enjoyed close commercial relations with Democratic Germany. Guinea has a population of over 2,500,000, and is an important producer of iron ore, bauxite, bananas, coffee and other tropical produce.

FOREIGN BASES FOR BONN THREATEN PEACE

The establishment of foreign bases for the West German Wehrmacht is a direct threat to the peace of Europe, the Government of the German Democratic Republic warned on March 9th.

The Foreign Ministry of the GDR published a declaration stating:

"The Government of the GDR draws the attention of all peace-loving people to the fact that recent disclosures about the preparations made by the West German Government to establish military bases in Franco Spain confirm all earlier warnings about the dangerous character of the policy pursued by the West German militarists.

"For a considerable period the West German Government has endeavoured to establish military bases in other countries, including Norway, Denmark, Belgium, Holland, France, Turkey and Sardinia.

"To justify this policy, West German government circles claim that West German territory is too limited to ensure the security of the country. This claim is a flagrant lie. Nobody threatens or endangers West German security. In reality Bonn is only attempting to conceal its efforts to establish West German military hegemony in western Europe.

"By means of economic and military hegemony, Bonn wishes to obtain direct influence on the domestic policies of other countries. It has become clear that the arming of West Germany, in the framework of the NATO, is a threat to the peace of Europe.

"For years West German Christian-Democratic politicians have been labouring to create a political alliance between the Adenauer state and the fascist Franco regime. Military co-operation between Adenauer and Franco is a new version of the alliance between Hitler and Franco, which found its expression both in the use of the infamous 'Condor Legion' against the Spanish people, and in joint plans aimed against Britain and France.

"The same German militarists who rehearsed the Second World War on Spanish soil want to use the same arena today in order to rehearse a blitzkrieg against the German Democratic Republic.

"The facts demonstrate how far Adenauer has already followed Hitler's footsteps. The people of Europe, who cannot forget that the generals who command the Bonn army today are the very men who organised Hitler's war twenty years ago, demand that energetic measures should be taken against the West German plans.

"Responsible officials of the Bonn Government have declared publicly that they have no intention of abandoning their aggressive plans. On February 27th 1960 Adenauer presented his allies with the alternative of either providing Bonn with sufficient space for its preparations for aggression within the framework of NATO, or of seeing the Bonn Government taking steps on its own. On March 2nd 1960, West German Defence Minister Strauss declared that the Bonn army could under no circumstances renounce its plans for military establishments in other western European countries."

The government declaration closed with an appeal to end the danger of a new war by the conclusion of a peace treaty with Germany.

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WHITEWASHING HERR GLOBKE

An attempt to whitewash Hans Globke, Adenauer's State Secretary, has been launched by Mr George Shuster, President of the "American Council on Germany".

Mr Shuster started his campaign with a letter in the "New York Times" of February 26th, claiming that Globke, who served the nazis in a high post in the Ministry of the Interior, had really been a member of the anti-Nazi resistance movement.

The campaign to present Herr Globke as a model democrat was quickly answered, in a letter to the "New York Times" on March 8th, by Kay Boyle, noted novelist who spent many post-war years in West Germany. Here is the text of Miss Kay Boyle's letter:

Dr. George N. Shuster's defense of Hans Globke in The Times of Feb. 26 is indeed a distressing and disturbing document.

For those sufficiently informed, Globke emerges from even this smoothly official "clearance" as the most agile of turncoats and cleverest of collaborators. But for others Dr. Shuster's letter, written in his capacity as president of the American Council on Germany, might appear the final word on the subject of Globke's Nazi past.

It is my firm belief that history will record Globke's story quite differently and that posterity will view the "clear facts" to which Dr. Shuster refers with a more dispassionate eye; for existing German records are somewhat at variance with those which Dr. Shuster cites.

These records disclose that Globke worked actively with the Nazis from 1933, and that he did actually fill out an application for membership in the Nazi party, although final action was apparently not taken on his application. Globke served as Ministerial Councillor in Hitler's Ministry of the Interior during the period of "the final liquidation of the Jewish problem", and was co-author with Stuckhardt of the official commentaries on Hitler's racial laws.

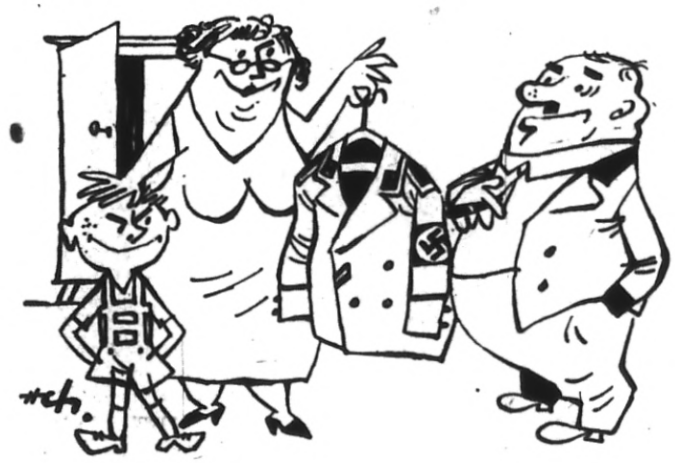
Whatever may have been his reasons for such participation — Dr. Shuster offers as explanation „an honest attempt" on Globke's part "to deprive those laws of as much malignancy as possible" — the facts remain that Globke was responsible for the device of having Jewish passports stamped with the letter "J", so that no escape was possible for their bearers, and that he publicly remarked of the cases with which he dealt that "they should have chosen their parents more carefully."

Enlightened German opinion concerning Globke's past is expressed in a sentence from a letter an editor of a right-wing Ruhr daily wrote me on this subject recently: "Positions of authority and responsibility in the Nazi times could only mean co-responsibility in the most atrocious national crimes."

Unfortunately, Hans Globke is not the only Nazi offender in Adenauer's Government. Gerhard Schroeder, Minister of Interior, was a member of Hitler's brown-shirted Storm Troops, having joined the Nazi party in 1933. Theodor Oberlaender, Cabinet Minister for Refugee Affairs, likewise became a party member in 1933, receiving an honorary rank equivalent to that of captain in the SA.

On Feb. 15 of this year, a friend in a position of some importance in the German administration wrote me: "As to the relation of our Government to the Jewish question, and to the recent outbreaks of anti-Semitism, the Ministers speak out against what is happening, not because they are really concerned by the realization that such thinking still exists in the minds of some sections of the German people, but solely because of our foreign relations. If there was any conviction, within the Government on this matter, everyone knows that Oberlaender and Globke would never be retained."

These unofficial voices I have quoted — and they are certainly not solitary voices — have not cleared Globke as the official depositions and affidavits presume to do.



"Let's have this cut down to fit junior"

("Szpilki", Warsaw)

Oberlaender's Aides

Theodor Oberlaender, West German Refugee Minister with a nazi past, has filled the posts of his Ministry with large numbers of other old nazis, according to "Welt der Arbeit", West German trade union organ, in an article on February 26th.

Werner Ventzki, head of the West Berlin department of the Ministry, was nazi mayor of Lodz in Occupied Poland. In this capacity he was responsible for the concentration camp where Jews from all over Europe were gathered and sent on to their death in Auschwitz. Hitler personally gave him the "Golden Nazi Party Emblem" for his activities.

Dr. Goldschmidt was deputy "Volksgruppenfuehrer" in Hungary during the war. He fled to South America to avoid punishment for nazi activities but returned in 1954 and now heads the "Foreign Refugee Department" in Oberlaender's Ministry.

Dr. Schlicker was a leader in the storm troopers and an editor in a nazi newspaper in Dresden. He now works as press secretary in the Refugee Ministry.

Those Nazi Judges Again

New Details from Czechoslovakia

Well over 1100 nazi judges and public prosecutors have now been positively identified as working in West German courts, according to the latest details published in Berlin on March 10th. On that date the Czechoslovak authorities presented the international press with documentary evidence of the crimes committed by 230 nazi jurists in occupied Czechoslovakia during World War Two. Some of these judges and prosecutors had already been named in previous listings of 1000 nazi jurists by the Committee for German Unity in East Berlin, but 146 of the persons named were identified for the first time as being back at work in the West German courts.

The most shocking case revealed by the latest researches is that of Dr Kurt Bellmann, aged 60, today senior judge in Hanover Provincial Court. During the war Dr Bellmann presided in the nazi Spezial Court in Prague, and in this capacity passed more than 110 death sentences. Most of the death sentences were on persons who had given asylum to Czech patriots and Jews who were wanted by the Gestapo, and on persons who had listened to foreign broadcasts.

The West German authorities cannot claim in this case that they knew nothing about Dr Bellmann's record, since he was handed over to them in 1955 as a "non-amnestied war criminal" after serving nine years of a war crimes sentence in Czechoslovakia. Details of most of his crimes have only been discovered since his release.

Dr Hans Heine, today judge in Duisburg, passed at least 46 death sentences on Czechoslovak citizens for offences such as escaping from ghettoes, listening to foreign broadcasts, and expressing regret that Hitler had not been killed in the 1944 bomb plot.

The Czechoslovak Union of Anti-Fascist Fighters announced that it would file charges with the West German judicial authorities against about 40 of the most seriously incriminated judges.

The question of the nazi judges back in office in West Germany was raised again in the British House of Commens on February 29th.

The question of these nazi judges is dealt with further in BERLIN NOTEBOOK on the back page of this issue. Here are the parliamentary questions asked on February 24th, and the unsatisfactory answers given by Foreign Secretary Selwyn Lloyd:

Mrs Barbara Castle (Blackburn, Labour): Last week there was held in west Germany an exhibition of documents which seemed to show that 43 leading judges and lawyers from west Germany had served with great brutality in Nazi courts, and this exhibition was closed under pressure from the west German Goverment. Would not that Goverment be better employed in trying to get at the truth, so as to establish confidence in its belief in democracy?

Mr Selwyn Lloyd (Wirral, Conservative) said that investigations with regard to former Nazis were taking place whenever any evidence is produced...

Mrs Castle asked the Foreign Secretary what were the most recent representations he had made to the west German Government regarding the appointment to their former, or similar, positions, contrary to the Potsdam Agreement, of judges, prosecutors, and other legal persons personally concerned in the infliction of inhumane sentences under the Nazi laws.

We had better begin (she said) by taking steps in the areas for which we are responsible and have an interest under the Potsdam Agreement. The American Jewish Congress has written to me to complain that they have been denied access to documents in the Berlin centre (the Berlin document centre, under US control, the ed.). Is it not clear that the allies, far from making representations to the West German Government to clear up this matter and so let us have some confidence in its procedure, are conniving with the West German Government in a conspiracy of suppression of facts, and is it not time it stopped?

Mr Lloyd: The hon. lady is talking complete nonsense. In every case where we get any evidence we are only too willing to pass it on, but we are not responsible for the document centre or investigating evidence.

Mr Sydney Silverman (Nelson and Colne, Labour): I have been asking questions on this subject for nearly two years, and the Foreign Secretary has promised to make investigations and to make a statement to the House. So far he has made no statement of any kind. Is he really asking the House to believe that we or our allies are seriously attempting the investigation of what is a serious problem? Have they got any results to report, and have they not yet found out a single case? The exhibition to which reference has been made showed only 41 samples out of an estimated total of more than 1000. Is nothing goinig to be done about this?

Mr Lloyd: The Ministers of Justice of the Federal Republic did make it clear that they were concerned to investigate these allegations, and in certain cases there have been results.

Free Offer

A listing of 800 nazi jurists back in office in West Germany, together with details of the crimes committed by many of them, is given in "We Accuse", a book published by the Committee for German Unity in East Berlin. We shall be glad to send a free copy of the English edition to any reader (outside the GDR) as long as supplies last. Please address applications to:

GERMAN REPORT
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GDR – Cuba Trade Deal

Cuba will establish a permanent trade mission in East Berlin, and the GDR will send a trade mission to Cuba, it was officially announced in Berlin on March 8th. A new trade agreement concluded between the two states will lead to a big increase in commercial exchanges, officials stated.

Printing Plant for Guinea

The Republic of Guinea has ordered a large new printing plant for its capital Conakry from the German Democratic Republic. German specialists have already designed a modern, functional shop which will take into consideration geology, climate, building, materials and labour skills in Conakry. The contract for the plant, needed desperately to print educational and government publications, was awarded Democratic Germany after plans of many other countries had proved less satisfactory.

The Non-Existent Country

By Phyllis Rosner

A few days ago I sat down to lunch with a British businessman at a restaurant in Leipzig, scene of Democratic Germany's huge trade fair. After having had a meal equal to any you can buy in an expensive West End restaurant, my companion said to me: "For a 'non-existent' country everything here seems very real to me, I might almost say surprisingly solid."

My acquaintance had spent most of the day looking round some of the German Democratic Republic exhibits at the Fair. He said that the standard of the goods generally — of the textiles, furniture, toys and in particular of the machinery and engineering sections — "made him think."

The fact is that, although Democratic Germany is a relatively small country with a population of 17 million people, it is Europe's fifth industrial producer and it is the fourth largest exporter of engineering goods in the world.

The Seven Year Plan of the GDR (1959—1965) envisages steadily risng living standards and a tremendous expansion of industrial capacity, so the GDR is interested in increasing imports of consumer goods of all kinds, of raw materials, of general and heavy engineering products and chemical and mining plant equipment.

In Leipzig I heard references to a behind-the-scenes steel competition between Western Germany, Britain, Sweden, France, Austria and Belgium to capture the large orders East Germany is prepared to place. Up to 1945 the Ruhr used to supply the eastern part of the country — now the GDR — with 2 million tons of steel annually; at present it supplies only 200,000 tons because the West German Government refuses to approve larger transactions.

This was the subject discussed at a meeting in Leipzig between Heinrich Rau, GDR Minister of Trade, and some of the 59 directors of large West German steel concerns attending the Fair. Herr Rau underlined that the GDR was prepared to place long-term contracts for steel and naturally the astute West German businessmen are anxious to win this lucrative trade.

I gathered that some West German businessmen are rather worried that other countries may step in and capture this market. They are equally concerned the same may occur with orders for supplying Democratic Germany with complete chemical plants.

Already one large order has been placed in Britain, with Humphreys & Glasgow, Ltd. and Petrocarbon Developments, Ltd. Final contracts were signed in Leipzig for these two firms to supply a complete ethylene plant to produce 40,000 tons of synthetic fibre a year. The plant will be attached to the Leuna chemical works, East Germany's largest enterprise.

These two firms took part in the British exhibition at the Fair, the largest from any western country with the exception of West Germany. Britain was officially represented at the Fair. Also for the first time Britain had its own pavilion in which the Federation of British Industries stand was manned by Mr. E. S. Taylor from the Federation and Mr. A. J. Cox of the Engineering Centre, Birmingham.

Mr. Cox confirmed British exhibitors — there were close on 200 — felt there were good prospects for trade with the GDR and he said many of them had remarked on the liveliness of the Fair.

Among the visitors from 80 countries were over 800 from Britain, including several Conservative and Labour M.P.s. British businessmen and politicians had the opportunity of meeting leading East German politicians and trading officials.

Conservative M. P.s George B. Drayson and Brigadier-General T. Clarke together with Labour M.P.s Arthur Lewis and Sidney Silverman and former Labour M. P. Ian Mikardo spent a great deal of time at the Fair. Brigadier-General Clarke stated how greatly he had been impressed on this, his first visit to Leipzig, both with the Fair and the appearance of the city and its people. He said he hoped it would be possible for Herr Rau, GDR Minister of Trade, to visit Britain soon, adding, "we should be very happy to welcome him in our country."

Several British firms have especial reason to be pleased with the trade done at Leipzig and the prospects for further business both with Democratic Germany and other socialist countries.

English Electric Co., Ltd. finally concluded the contract — under discussion for several months — to supply electrical equipment for East Germany's new jet airliner. I went to the Company's stand to enquire about British press reports that they were supplying the GDR equipment on the secret list.

"It is utter nonsense" was what I was told by Mr. M. A. E. Bechtler, European Export Manager and by Miss Audrey Lane, metallurgical assistant to the Company's foundry manager. They showed me the equipment in question, pointing out it was for short-range aircraft. The order, something in the range of £150,000, has been approved by the Board of Trade.

Walter Ulbricht, GDR Deputy Prime Minister, spent a considerable time at British stands during his tour of the Fair. He stressed Democratic Germany's readiness not only to expand existing trading relations, but to co-operate with British industrial enterprises.

Replying to a toast in the British pavilion, he told exhibitors, "we have no territorial demands on each other and we can therefore trade peacefully."

At the Rootes Group stand he carefully studied the multi-fuel vehicle, capable of running on diesel oil, paraffin, petrol or the waste fuel from jet planes, and said East Germany would purchase one for testing purposes. If, as anticipated, it comes up to expectations, then a big order can be expected here. This is not the only one in the offing for Britain. Talks are being conducted with British firms on the import of colour television equipment and further chemical plants.

Record Business

The 1960 Leipzig Fair, which closed on March 8th, broke all records for business done, it was officially announced. Provisional figures showed that the German Democratic Republic had concluded export agreements for goods valued at over 3,000 million marks (about £250 million). Nearly one third of the exports will go to capitalist countries. The export figures were 16% up on the 1959 figures.

"SCHOOL BOOKS FOSTER NATIONALISM" — West German TUC Newspaper

Very many of the history books used in West German schools give school-children a one-sided and nationalist view of history, "Welt der Arbeit", official weekly of the West German Trade Union Federation stated on February 19th.

In its main front-page article the newspaper summed up the main faults of most history textbooks as follows:

"1. One-sided treatment of world questions. Actions taken by foreign countries are described as imperialism and injustice: the same actions taken by Germany are called the natural pursuit of national interests.

2. German relations with the Eastern nationalities and especially with the Poles are completely distorted.

3. German war aims before and during World War I are almost completely ignored.

4. Hitler's policies and the crimes of the nazi period are played down.

5. Other countries are blamed for the greatest mistakes in German history.

6. Social developments in Germany are almost disregarded, and the development of the working-class movement and its importance in modern history is totally ignored.

7. The history of diplomatic and military events swamps the social developments."

The trade union newspaper continued: "Even the history books which seem to be very democratic show the last hundred years, almost without exception, from the one-sided point of view of the national middle class. This is especially clear in the treatment of the reigns of Kaiser Wilhelm I and II. Even worse, almost all of the books blame the Versailles Peace Treaty almost exclusively for the rise of Hitler. 'The others are to blame', is the motto of these history books.

"German youth is shown a distorted picture of the past, a picture in which a harmless and always well-meaning Germany is destroyed and suppressed again and again by its enemies. Such books cannot help young people to learn the lessons of the past. They are much more likely to lead the German people into a renewed spiritual and political isolation and to new nationalist arrogance."

Here is the evidence:

Versailles Blamed

"... The reasons for World War II may be found in the political and economic mistakes made at Versailles ... From a political point of view the treatment of the German Reich after 1919, which was irresponsible when regarded from a European standpoint, and also the frequent failure of the Weimar Government to accomplish its German and its national tasks, gave unexpected momentum to the Hitler movement. The justified demands for a revision of Versailles were, however, exaggerated demagogically ..."

The West's Big Mistake

"The western powers feared European fascism as a direct menace much more than they feared world-wide communism, with which the spokesmen of democracy felt they could form an alliance. This mistaken belief of the western democracies at the time, as well as their disregard for opposition to Hitler inside Germany, were decisive for the outcome of the war."

Carriers of Culture

"In further acts of violence, 13 to 14 million Germans were arbitrarily driven from their ancient soil in Rumania, Hungary, Poland, Bohemia, Silesia, East Prussia and along the Baltic coast, in violation of the human rights which had been guaranteed repeatedly since 1941. The struggle for freedom by the democracies ended with new political and moral injustices and an enormous decrease in the area of Occidental culture. The most important carriers of Western culture towards the East were forced to leave the native soil which they had cultivated for hundreds of years."

The Sick Fuehrer

"The 'Fuehrer' was sick and in despair ... The battle was now being carried on, not to win 'final victory' or for survival, but only against the severe 'unconditional surrender' which had been announced by the other countries as their war aim."

From "Europa und die Welt", edited by Dr F. Niedermayer and E. Luedke. 1954. Blutenburg Verlag Munich. For use in the secondary schools of Bavaria.

Suffering Under Foreign Rule

"The Memel area had been seized with armed force by little Lithuania in 1923. The German population had suffered greatly under foreign rule. After the Protectorate (in dismembered Czechoslovakia, the ed.) had been set up, Hitler demanded the return of the Memel area from the Lithuanian Government. Seeing no possibility of refusal, it acquiesced."

Nothing Dishonourable

"The new government under Marshall Petain soon saw the necessity of asking for an armistice. This was then proclaimed on June 25th. The French negotiator described its contents with the words: 'The conditions are severe, but contain nothing damaging to our honour.'"

1940 — Understanding Hindered

"The results of the struggle were not affected by Italy's entrance into the war on June 10th. The Italian troops could not win the Alpine passes from France ... But the exaggerated Italian demands ... hindered a better understanding between Germany and the new French government in Vichy."

British Cities Suffer Little

"In early September 1940 Hitler announced his decision to 'wipe out' British cities in order to avenge British attacks on German cities ... The German losses were heavy but the extent of destruction (to British cities) was comparatively small."

Illegal Partisans

"But German losses were also very heavy. Partisan units were set up by order of Stalin behind the front. They later boasted of having killed 300,000 German soldiers and officers. German counter-measures likewise disregarded the rules of international law."

From "Geschichte der neuesten Zeit", edited by Dr Hermann Pinnow and Dr Fritz Textor. 1954. Ernst Klett Verlag Stuttgart. For use in the middle classes.

WEST-EAST MIGRATION

Western newspapers regularly present stories about "refugees" streaming from East Germany to West Germany, but the very considerable stream in the opposite direction goes almost unmentioned. Gaston Coblentz, "New York Herald Tribune" correspondent in Germany, broke the silence in an article printed in the Paris edition of his newspaper on March 3rd. Here is Mr Coblentz' article:

The East German government is operating efficient reception centers for thousands of men, women and children who are migrating from West Germany to Communist East Germany.

Part of the East-bound migration was witnessed today by this reporter at a Communist reception camp at Blankenfelde, on the outskirts of East Berlin.

The eight-barrack Blankenfelde camp was occupied by persons of all ages proceeding in the opposite direction from the steady stream of East German refugees to the West.

The East German government asserts that about 7,500 Germans have moved to Communist territory so far this year. This compares to some 20,000 East Germans who have moved West during the same eight weeks.

West German officials privately confirm that the Communist figures for the East-bound movement, while probably somewhat inflated, cannot be lightly dismissed.

The Blankenfelde camp, situated along a main highway running through an open field, was said by Manfred Schoeler, of the East German Ministry of the Interior, to be one of five main reception centers currently in operation.

The others, he said, are located in Mecklenburg's Hagenow area, in the Gera district, at Eisenach and at Barby, in the Magdeburg area. The Magdeburg camp was said to be the largest.

At Blankenfelde, which has a capacity of 300 persons, a total of 991 East-bound migrants have been processed so far this year. They generally remain in the camp from eight to 14 days before lodgings and employment are found for them by the Communist authorities.

Walter Schaeffer, 42, a friendly and obviously gifted Communist social worker who runs the camp, said that about half the persons arriving there this year are West Germans who are coming to East Germany for the first time. The other half are East Germans who fled to the West but decided to return to Communist territory.

Roughly 50 per cent of the new arrivals are young men and women between 15 and 25 years of age.

This reporter and a French correspondent who requested access to the camp through the East German Foreign Ministry were shown through each barracks and spent the morning interviewing the migrants.

The first room we entered was typical of the rest. It had two double-decker iron cots with comfortable mattresses, clean linen, a sizable table and clothes cupboards. It was spotlessly clean.

The room was occupied by Mrs. Wilhelmina Baresel, a good-looking woman of 29, and her daughters, Helga and Gisela, four and six. She said that she and her husband, Wolfgang, an upholsterer, both of them West Germans, had come to East Germany from the Ruhr city of Duisburg for economic reasons.

"The prices in Duisburg are rising all the time. My husband has a bad arm. He had an accident some time ago. He was unable to find a permanent job. We were really desperate. From what we have heard, we believe we will find more security over here."

The Ministry of Interior officials who accompanied us asked that we should make no further request for the exact names of any of the other migrants, on alleged grounds that it might cause difficulties for any family members they had left behind in West Germany.

A pert, sharp-spoken divorcée walking down the glisteningly clean corridor of another one of the barracks, explained why she had returned to East Germany only nine months after leaving it as a refugee to join her parents at Wattenscheidte, in the Ruhr.

"After I was divorced, I left my home in Potsdam and went with my two children to live with my father. The kids are only two and three years old. My father is a mason and has a heart ailment. I had to work. I could not leave the kids with my mother all day. That's no way to live. There is only one kindergarten in Wattenscheidte and you can only leave the children there from eight in the morning until noon. So I came back. They have kindergartens here where they take care of the children all day. Just fix my kids up and I'll work anywhere."

A girl of 20 from Cologne said that family trouble caused her to migrate to East Germany.

"My father got drunk all the time. He used to beat me over the head. I have an aunt here, and I am going to her. I worked as a waitress in Cologne. I guess I'll do the same thing here."

None of the people we talked to seemed to have second thoughts about their decision.

The tour of the camp included a visit to the medical dispensary, staffed by two well groomed East German Red Cross nurses and stocked with medicines produced by East German pharmaceutical plants.

Mr. Schaeffer added that criminal and asocial migrants are sent back to West Germany. This is comparable to the West German practice of sending similar elements among the West-bound refugees back to East Germany.

The East German Communists say that the migration to their territory is sharply on the rise at present as a result of improved living standards in East Germany and the growing consolidation of the East German state. They say it will probably soon be necessary for them to open more reception camps.

Turbo-Props for GDR Airline

From April 1960, Moscow will only be 2½ hours flying time away from East Berlin, instead of six hours as at present. On April 1st Lufthansa, the civil airline of the German Democratic Republic, will begin operating its longer foreign routes with 90-seater IL 18 turbo-prop planes instead of the reliable but slow IL 14 planes used at present.

The four-engined IL 18 planes, which have a range of 5000 miles and a cruising speed of over 400 miles per hour, will be supplied to Democratic Germany by the Soviet Union under the terms of the current trade agreement.

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

As we note on another page, the question of the nazi judges back at work in the courts in West Germany is still exercising many people, both in Germany itself and in the western countries. I should like to take this opportunity of thanking readers of GERMAN REPORT who have made protests on this issue to West German Embassies and Legations in all parts of the world: thanks to their efforts, and the efforts of other people shocked at the news that judges are back in office who applied Hitler's racial legislation, and who sentenced thousands of people to death for anti-fascist activity, the West German authorities have been forced at long last to do something about it.

They may only be going through the motions, but the authorities in at least some of the provinces of West Germany have finally had to get busy: in the past few weeks a handful of the most severely incriminated nazi judges have been suspended from office, and in a number of other cases "preliminary investigations" have been opened against these murderers in judicial robes.

I think that the history of the case of the nazi judges is worth some attention, because it throws considerable light on the extent to which world public opinion can, in fact, exert pressure on the rather sinister gang which runs things today in the West German capital of Bonn.

It has been known for many years that some of the judges and public prosecutors in the West German courts had somewhat murky records, but few reliable details were available. The full extent of the renazification of the courts became apparent in 1957 when GDR researchers started to dig into the dung-hill of nazi court records and the archives of the nazi Ministry of Justice, which had been saved from destruction by the Soviet Army in 1945, taken to the Soviet Union for safe-keeping, and subsequently returned to Democratic Germany.

The research work was a fantastically big job, since something like 100,000 individual files — well over five million individual sheets — had to be scoured. In June 1957, however, the Committee for German Unity in East Berlin was able to announce that it had found documentary proof that 162 West German judges and prosecutors had been identified as having worked in Hitler's special courts, and having passed hundreds of death sentences. I should emphasise that all the jurists named in this and subsequent publications of the Committee for German Unity were not simply men who had worked for the ordinary courts under Hitler: they were not men who had dealt with run-of-the-mill traffic violations, burglaries, tax evasion, and so on. They were all of them active in the special courts, the People's Courts, and the military courts which applied specifically fascist legislation and decrees dealing with those classes of persons classified by the nazis as "sub-human": that is to say Jews, Poles, Czechs, German anti-fascists and so on.

The reaction in official West German quarters to the first revelations about the re-employment of these men was what might have been expected: the news was either totally suppressed in the West German press, or it was brushed off as another "East German campaign of vilification".

The reaction in most parts of the western world was similar, though Mr. Sydney Silverman, Labour MP, asked a question on the subject in the British House of Commons on July 10th 1957, and the London "Daily Express" had a long and hard-hitting article by Sefton Delmer on September 16th 1957 stating: "Of all the departures from the Allied plans which Dr Adenauer has sanctioned in the eight years he has been in power already, I think this restoration of the Hitler terror judges is the most sinister."

But I must cut a long story short. Every few months since June 1957 the researchers of the Committee for German Unity have announced the names and misdeeds of more hundreds of these terror judges: to date a total of one thousand names have been made public. And the names have not simply been published: photostats of the incriminating documents have been sent to the Federal and local authorities in West Germany, and the Committee for German Unity has announced time and time again that the original documents are available in East Berlin for inspection by the West German legal authorities, by journalists, and by any others who have a legitimate interest in them.

The West German authorities kept up their blanket of silence for as long as possible, but finally, a few months ago, public protests in all parts of the world, and the growing pile of evidence, forced them to adopt other tactics. A handful of the incriminated judges have been suspended, or quietly pensioned off, and other cases are said to be under investigation.

But two fresh arguments have recently been produced for not doing anything: firstly, say the West German authorities, the original documents giving details about these judges are in the German Democratic Republic, and the GDR does not really exist; secondly, the judges may have passed death sentences on anti-nazis, but they were only applying the law of the land, and cannot be sacked or proceeded against for simply doing their duty.

The first argument does not bear inspection: the GDR authorities have made photostats of the original documents available, and will produce the original documents for inspection at any time. It is really too much to expect that the GDR authorities should hand over the originals to West German quarters which have reduced the unfortunate "losing" of such incriminating papers to a fine art.

The second argument shows clearly how far West German official opinion has moved in the formal rehabilitation of the nazi regime. The argument was put quite clearly during February by Dr Wolfgang Haussmann, Minister of Justice of Baden-Wuerttemberg province. He stated, in February 1960, that action could only be taken against nazi judges who had acted illegally. Since, under the special nazi laws and decrees it was quite legal, for instance, to sentence Poles to death for hiding a Jewish child to save him from the gas chambers, or for kicking a "German" dog, such judges are quite free to administer the law today in West Germany. I have not invented those specific instances: judges on the bench today in West Germany passed death sentences for precisely those offences.

Some readers of GERMAN REPORT have sometimes objected in the past that we go too far when we speak about a "re-nazification" in West Germany. Such objections have become rare in the past few months. Events, unfortunately, are convincing the sceptics.

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